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7-2015

Forage News [2015-07]

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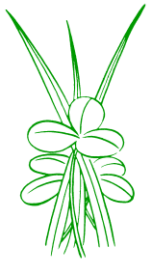
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FORAGE NEWS

For more forage information, visit our UK Forage Extension Website at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/>

July 2015

S. Ray Smith, Extension Forage Specialist and Krista Lea, MS

UK Forage Website now has over 100,000 Hits!

The current Forage Website was developed and launched over 10 years ago and is the “go to” resource for forage information in Kentucky and surrounding states. As of June 1st, 2015 Forage News has now been accessed over 100,000 times! We would like to thank Dr. Garry Lacefield and Christi Forsythe for their dedication to maintaining the website with up to date information and to all of the administrators, county agents and local producers who support it by suggesting content and referring others to the site. The easiest way to access the Forage Website is to “google” KY Forages; our site is always the first thing to come up. Be careful though if you type in “UK Forages” because occasionally it will take you to forage information in England (the United Kingdom). Remember that current and back issues of Forage News are also on the website. If you or someone you know would like to receive Forage News directly each month, please email your contact info (email address for digital or mailing address for hard copy) to ukforageextension@uky.edu and we will add you to our list!

2015 KFGC Field Day to be held in Christian County

The 2015 Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Field Day will be Thursday September 17th in Christian County. The day’s events will include the annual Forage Spokesperson Contest, farm tour and an evening program on Hay Quality. More details will be in the next issue of Forage News and will be posted on the Forage website soon.

Advanced Grazing School scheduled for August 17th in Lexington, KY

The University of Kentucky Master Grazer Program is planning an Advanced Grazing School to be held on August 17th at the UK Spindletop Research Farm (3251 Iron Works Pike) in Lexington. The morning topics will include field demonstrations, calibrating no-till seeders and ATV spray rigs, a tour of the warm-season annual grass variety trials and grazing tolerant Forage Variety trials and Testing and Managing to Avoid Nitrate and prussic Acid Toxicity. Lunch and the afternoon sessions will be held at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (Newtown Pike and Citation) and will include economics and management of summer annuals, variety selection and building an Integrated System for your farm. Speakers include Dr. David Ditsch, Dr. Ray Smith, Mr. Gene Olson, Dr. Donna Amaral-Philips, Dr. Greg Halich, Dr. Dennis Hancock and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler. Program begins at 7:30 with registration and refreshments and

will end at the UK VDL at 3:15 pm. For more information and to register, contact Robin Notton at robin.notton@uky.edu.

Alfalfa Seed in Short Supply

Discussions with major seed suppliers reveal that alfalfa seed supplies may be limited for fall planting. This is especially true for the new Roundup Ready varieties, but even conventional varieties will be tight. If you are planning on late summer/fall plantings of alfalfa, go ahead and order seed of your preferred variety now. See the Alfalfa Report under the Forage Variety Trials section of the UK Forage Website for the varieties that perform best in Kentucky.

Supplementation with Soybean Hulls to Boost Stocker Weight Gain on Toxic Tall Fescue Pastures

Review of article by Dr. Glen Aiken, USDA

In a recent study, stocker cattle on toxic tall fescue pastures were given 5 lbs of soybean hulls (SBH) per day, ear implanted with estradiol-progesterone or both in an attempt to reduce the effects of infected pastures on stocker gains. Cattle receiving only SBH daily gained 2.1 lbs per day (31% over the control with no SBH and no implant) and cattle implanted gained 1.8 lbs per day (12% over the control). Cattle receiving both SBHs and implants performed the best at 2.7 lbs per day (70% higher average daily gain over the control). In addition, the SBH treatment, with and without implantation, had two-times greater prolactin concentrations and a higher percentage of sleek hair coats than these on the control treatment. The cost for the increases in ADG with combining SBH and implantation were below the breakeven cost over a wide range of SBH costs and cattle markets. The full article was printed in *Grazing News*, June 2015 and is available on the UK Master Grazer Website. To sign up for *Grazing News*, go to the Master Grazer website and enter your email address on the left hand side.

2016 AFGC Conference Information

Mark your calendars for the 2016 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual conference, held January 10th – 13th in Baton Rouge, LA. Registration will open in September. For more information, visit www.afgc.org.

Calibration of No-Till Drills

The invention of no-till drills has greatly increased the efficiency of forage establishment while reducing weeds and erosion. However a poorly calibrated drill can result in thin stands or wasted seed. Most seed drills have settings that in

theory should adjust the machine properly, however field conditions, different seed types and wear and tear on aging equipment can change how the machine performs. Therefore, proper calibration can reduce the cost of establishment and increase the effectiveness of no-till drills. Dr. Gary Bates of the University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center recently released a video on how to properly calibrate a no-till drill. It can be found at <https://vimeo.com/119008324>.



AFGC 2016 Annual Conference Call for Presentations

AFGC invites farmers, extension educators, Federal and State agency representatives, researchers, and industry representatives to submit proposals for volunteer presentations to be made in either an oral or poster format. Presentation submissions will be reviewed by the Programming Committee for inclusion on the program. Selected presenters will be sent a confirmation email with additional details.

Submit proposals for a volunteer oral or poster paper by August 1, 2015. After proposals are considered and scheduled, presenters will receive instructions for uploading a required one-page interpretative summary. The interpretative summary is not a scientific abstract, but a brief summary of your presentation that is easily understood by producers. The deadline for interpretative summaries will be November 1, 2015. For more information, visit www.AFGC.org.

Junior Forager Spotlight: Jake Tower 2015 Essay Winner

The Youth In Grazing Management Essay Contest encourages youth to submit essays regarding grazing management at the AFGC Conference each year. Jake Tower of Dubois, Indiana won the 14 and under category with his essay on goats, found below. For details on how to submit essay go to www.afgc.org and look under Events and then Competitions.

Have you ever had a problem with woods that are so heavy with weeds or brush that you can't even walk through it? Well, here's how you can fix it. Get a few goats, and depending on how big of an area you want cleared, get some goat fence, and a weed eater with a blade to make a path for the fence. Once you have all that, you're ready to go.

The reason you put goats in the woods is because goats are browsers. That means they like to eat things at eye level and up. What we have noticed about this is that if you have a bad looking goat that is skinny or bony, put them in the woods for a while and they will start to look better than ever. Goats actually prefer to browse brush and weeds, rather than to graze grass. To graze means to eat things at the foot level and down. Cows would not do a good job for this woods job because they don't like to eat weeds and prefer to graze on

grass. Since cows are grazers, they like to eat things that are close to the ground. As you can see, goats would have a good time in the woods and would do a better job than the cows.

For fencing the area, you should use goat fence netting. However, if your woods are really thick, you can't just put the fence up. You first have to make a path for the fence. The path has to be wide enough because if you have weeds on the fence, they would cause an electrical short in the fence. A good thing to use to make a path is a weed eater with a blade on it. All in all, a thick woods with lots of brush could be a big problem. But thanks to the goats, this could be a good thing. If you had goats but no place for them, you could always get some fence and put them in the woods. This could help you by clearing a thick woods and help the goats by having a good place to eat.

AFGC and UK to hold first Warm Season Grass Professional Workshop

After years of success offering a cool season grass workshop, AFGC has partnered with the University of Kentucky to offer the first ever Warm Season Grass Workshop on August 18th in Lexington, KY. This workshop was created with agronomists, seed dealers and advanced producers in mind and is scheduled to be a full day of lectures, activities and field demonstrations. For more information or to register, visit www.afgc.org and click on events.

Topics include genetics of BMR trait in sorghum, seed quality and industry, variety selection, beef and dairy performance, management of warm season grasses, testing for nitrate and cyanide toxicity, minor use summer annual grasses, integrating corn grazing, bermudagrass production and issues and a field tour of warm season grass research plots. Speakers include Dr. Ray Smith, Mr. Chad Hale, Dr. Chris Teutsch, Dr. Jeff Lekmkuhler, Dr. Dennis Hancock, Mr. Tom Keene and Mr. Gene Olson.

National Forage Week was a Success!

The first ever National Forage Week was held June 21st – 27th and included many events and advertisements around the country to celebrate Forages and educate others about their importance. National Forage Week is scheduled for June 19th – 25th, 2016.

Upcoming Events (details at Forage Website)

AUGUST 17 Advanced Grazing School Lexington, KY
AUGUST 18 Warm Season Grass Professional Workshop
Lexington, KY
SEPT 9-10 Heart of America Grazing Conference.
Wilmington OH.
SEPT 17 KFGC Field Day in Christian County.
NOV 20-24 International Grassland Congress. New Delhi,
India.
DEC 13-16 National Grazing Lands Coalition Conference
(GLCI). Grapevine, TX.

2015

JAN 10-12 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Meeting. Baton Rouge, LA.